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## Exploration and Discovery.

AN American exploring party has recently penetrated certain parts of Syria and the Hauran which have not been thoroughly explored, and has secured a mass of valuable topographical and epigraphical material which will soon appear in the *American Journal of Archaeology*.

PROFESSOR GEORGE ADAM SMITH, on a journey made last May through the Hauran from Tiberias to Damascus, found at Tell esh-Shihâb a monument of Seti I. which proves to be the second Egyptian memorial known to be in the Hauran, the first being the "Job's stone" with the figure of Rameses II., near el-Merkez.

IT is reported that in view of the finds still being made by natives at Sidon, the Imperial Ottoman Museum has decided to resume excavations there. The magnificent sarcophagi now at Constantinople, among them the famous "Sarcophagus of the Satrap" often called Alexander's, came, it will be remembered, from that vicinity.

WHILE the manuscript witnesses for the texts of the Apostolic Fathers are in general lamentably meager, for the Shepherd of Hermas they have been positively deficient, the last tenth of the Greek text having disappeared and being supplied in the editions from the Latin version. This deficiency is to be, in part at least, supplied, for Drs. Grenfell and Hunt report that among the Amherst Papyri upon which they have been engaged they have found a number of fragments of the Greek text of the Shepherd, one of them from the lost conclusion :

. . . . .	§ 3
[πιστευσ]αντες κα[ι	
[. . . . .] πιστευει[ν	
[εκ του] αυτου γαρ γεν[ους	
[εισιν] μακαριον το [γενος	
[τουτ]ο οτι ακακον [εστι	
[ακου]ε νυν και περ[ι των	§ 4
[λιθω]ν των στογ[γυλων	
[και λαμ]πρων και αυ[τοι	
[παντες εκ τ]ου ο[ρους	
. . . . .	

In the seventh line of this the emendation *στρογγύλων* at once suggests itself, and this reading the facsimile of the papyrus seems clearly to confirm. The papyrus comes from the sixth century after Christ. The same editors, though their second volume of Amherst Papyri has just reached America, seem likely to have their first volume of Ptolemaic Papyri from Tebtunis in print by the end of the year. This will contain some five hundred pages, and promises to be of great importance.

MRS. LEWIS, who in 1892 found in the Mount Sinai convent the now famous Syriac palimpsest of the gospels, has made another interesting, though comparatively small, discovery. She has had in her possession for six years a palimpsest book of 162 leaves, which was purchased at Suez in 1895. The upper-script is a collection of extracts from the writings of the Christian Fathers, in an Arabic translation of the ninth or tenth century. But here, as always, the under-script is the more valuable. It is chiefly Syriac, written in double-column style. The Protevangelium Jacobi and the Transitus Mariæ are given in a fifth- or sixth-century Syriac text. There are four leaves from two manuscripts of fifth-century Peshito Syriac gospels. Three leaves contain a double palimpsest, Syriac texts from Exodus and Isaiah crossing each other beneath the later Arabic.

But most interesting of all, there is one leaf—just one—of a sixth century Septuagint text. It contains on the obverse Gen. 40:3, 4, and on the reverse Gen. 40:7, in a beautiful uncial hand similar to that of the Codex Sinaiticus, as well as to that of the Codex Bezae. The value of this is great, since the book of Genesis is almost wanting in the Sinaitic and Vatican MSS. (Σ and B). In Gen. 40:3 there is a striking variant: we read *παρὰ τῷ ἀρχιμαγείρῳ* (instead of *παρὰ τῷ ἀρχιδεσμοφύλακι*), which seems to be a closer rendering of the Hebrew text in this passage. And then on the margin of the pages we have variants from Origen's Hexapla, eight of them for these three verses. It is easy to see that if we could get the entire manuscript of which this is a single leaf, we should have by far the best and most useful Septuagint text known to us, containing as it would so many of the Hexaplaric readings. It is not likely, indeed, that the entire manuscript will be recovered; but we may come into possession of many more of its scattered leaves.